

The following morning a general Council of ~~the~~ all the Chiefs and Warriors of the tribe was called, and a council lodge was erected consisting of two long rows of young cottonwood trees and boughs set in the sand with a row of ~~st~~akes between them supporting cross poles reaching from side to side, and covered overhead with an awning of muslin, forming a shaded place about 100 feet long and 30 in width capable of shading several hundreds of these people. With the help of Kicking Bird (who had assisted me in all my intercourse with these people of a public character) I explained the contents of the Agent's letter to them relative to the release of Satanta and Big Tree, and then wrote down the result of their deliberations to be returned to the Agent by the Messenger he had sent.

It now appears that had no message been received from the Agent, or nothing to indicate any intention on the part of the Government of a compliance with its agreement to release the two imprisoned chiefs, the tribe would have separated at this place, about one half of them under the leadership of Kicking Bird, and the chiefs friendly to him and his policy of peace, would have gone into the Agency and maintained friendly relations with the Government, while the other part of the tribe with Lone Wolf and Woman's Heart at their head would have gone off into the solitudes of the <sup>"Sage"</sup> State Plains and instituted a series of hostile raids upon the frontier settlements wherever situated. But the timely arrival of this message, showing a favorable change in the action of the Government has had the effect of strengthening the influence of Kicking Bird in his peace policy, and uniting the tribe more firmly on the basis of friendship to the Whites than ever before.